

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

The 1972 National Register nomination form for St. Anne's Church failed to establish a boundary and justification for the property. St. Anne's Church is located on a 34.01 acre lot along the west side of Summit Bridge Road in Appoquinimink Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. St. Anne's Church includes the church itself and adjoining cemetery with its associated structures and objects. The nomination form noted that the cemetery adjoining St. Anne's was "particularly distinguished for the quality of its nineteenth-century monuments." Otherwise, the setting of the church was not discussed. The churchyard also contains mature oak trees, cedars, and boxwoods. One oak to the east side of the church has a plaque inscribed, "1682-1932." In addition, a brick wall was constructed in about 1913, with later extensions, to surround the church and churchyard. The wall is three-to-four feet in height at most locations. The wall is about six feet from the edge of the sidewalk along the east side of the property and about eight feet from the edge of the road on the south side of the property. There is no wall along the northern or western edges of the property. The wall is stepped to match the rise and fall of the contour of the land on which it is erected. Both the exterior and interior of the walls feature recessed panels separated by pilasters. The wall is capped with coping bricks which are beveled to shed water to either side of the wall. Concrete steps lead up to the wrought iron gate and walkway at the east side of the property. Brick columns with a recessed panel flank either side of the gate. A plaque on the southern column reads, "In memory of Merritt Noxon Willits vestryman 1874 and warden from 1899 to 1913 of St. Anne's Parish." The column on the opposite side is inscribed, "1914 This gate a Memorial to Horatio Nelson Willits for many years Senior Warden of St. Anne's Parish."

There are four gates on the south side of the wall. The easternmost of these provides entrance to the walkway to the church itself. It also has a memorial plaque above the recessed panel. It is inscribed, "In Memoriam William Dyre one of the commissioners appointed to survey land for this church 1704 Mrs. Rebecca Dyre donor of the communion service St. Anne's Parish 1759." The next gate to the west is a double gate which allows vehicular entrance into the graveyard. The gravel roadway at this location may be the trace of the King's Highway which formerly passed on the west side of the church. Near the north end of this trace and west of the church, a brick columbarium was erected in the 1970s with niches to hold ashes of the departed. A frame gazebo was erected nearby at about the same time. The eastern column of this gateway contains a metal plaque above the recessed panel. It is inscribed, "1914 This gate a memorial to William Green for many years vestryman of St. Anne's Parish." Brick steps lead up to the third gate to the west. This gate leads to what is known as the "Bishop's Walk." The walk is lined with cedar trees and to the west side of the walk various bishops of the early twentieth century are buried. The fourth entrance contains a double gate allowing for vehicular use. A metal plaque on the western column is inscribed, "1927 This gate a memorial to William Dyre Bradford vestryman of St. Anne's Parish 1892-1919." There is a marble slab inserted in the recessed panel just west of this last gate. It is inscribed, "In memory of Henry W. Brown of Philadelphia who in 1919 provided eight additional acres to the church yard of St. Anne's. His wife Alice P. Brown was a descendant of the Driver and Merritt families of Middletown. Mr. Brown, his wife and daughter Elsie are buried in St. Anne's Church yard."

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Statement of Significance

The 1972 National Register nomination form for the 1768 St. Anne's Church noted that it was "the best preserved of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) missions." It was constructed in the meetinghouse style with entrances on the south and east sides, a gallery, and a high pulpit along the north wall, typical elements of the colonial and post colonial era. The 1936 HABS documentation for the church noted that "its architectural elements in several ways suggest an earlier date than the one given."¹ It was particularly noted that the cove cornice is associated with an earlier generation. The entrance porch or vestibule had been added in 1847 when the interior of the church was re-oriented from north to east. The church held a bicentennial celebration on June 25, 1905 at which time the history of the church was recalled and recorded in a booklet.² During the restoration of the church in 1952-53, the interior was re-oriented again, to the original north direction. In addition, the vestibule was removed. During the removal, old foundations were discovered which may have been part of the original church there.³ This addendum to the original nomination recommends that the period of significance for this property extend from 1768 when the current church was constructed to 1953 when the restoration of the church was completed.

In Scharf's *History of Delaware* it is noted that on September 1, 1704 Richard Cantwell and William Dyre, inhabitants near Appoquinimink Creek, requested the Commissioners of Property for a grant of 10 acres vacant land for the erection of a chapel. The first church at this location was erected the following year.⁴ (No further information or deeds of this early period were found at either the New Castle County Courthouse in Wilmington or the Delaware State Archives at Dover.) In 1851 John P. Cochran and wife Eliza sold to the Rector, Wardens, and Vestrymen of St. Anne's Church sixty-three perches.⁵ This is a triangular shaped lot at the southeastern corner of the current property. In 1919 the Delaware Railroad Company sold eight acres to representatives of St. Anne's church for \$450.00.⁶ This tract was located directly west of the original tract. In 1957 the Delaware Railroad Company deeded to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. Anne's Church 21.232 acres for \$6800.00.⁷ This tract lies immediately west of the other parcel purchased from the Delaware Railroad in 1919. Currently, the plot of land owned by St. Anne's Church is 34.01 acres and is all the land between the Appoquinimink Creek to the north, Summit Bridge Road to the east, St. Anne's Church Road to the south, and the former Delaware Railroad, now Norfolk Southern Railroad, to the west.

¹ HABS. No. Del-72, p. 2.

² *Souvenir of the Bicentennial of St. Anne's Parish, Middletown, Delaware 1705-1905*, pp. 13-14.

³ Conversation with Peter Hall, representative of Old St. Anne's, May 9, 2007.

⁴ Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware*, p. 1020.

⁵ From copy of original deed in possession of St. Anne's Church.

⁶ From copy of original deed in possession of St. Anne's Church.

⁷ New Castle County Deed Book F61, 87Y

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Bibliography

Peter Hall, personal conversation at Old St. Anne's Church, May 9, 2007

Historic American Building Survey, St. Anne's Episcopal Church surveyed 1936, Addendum 1941
HABS. No. Del-72

New Castle County Deed Book F61, 87Y

Scharf, J. Thomas
1888 History of Delaware, 1609-1888. J.L. Richards and Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Souvenir of the Bicentennial of St. Anne's Parish, Middletown, Delaware 1705-1905
1905 NP

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Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for St. Anne's Church begins at the intersection of the southern edge of Appoquinimink Creek and the western toe of slope of Summit Bridge Road. The boundary continues south along the western toe of slope of Summit Bridge Road to the intersection of St. Anne's Church Road. At that intersection the boundary turns west following the northern toe of slope of St. Anne's Church Road. The boundary continues west until the end of the brick wall, which is also the boundary of the 1919 purchase of land from the Delaware Railroad. At that point the boundary turns north following the western boundary established by that purchase. The boundary continues north until it strikes the southern edge of the Appoquinimink Creek. The boundary then turns east and follows the curvatures of the creek until it meets the western toe of slope of Summit Bridge Road, the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for St. Anne's Church includes the church edifice, the surrounding churchyard, and the brick wall and its gates. Therefore, the boundary includes all of the structures, objects, and the 12.37 acres of land historically associated with the development of the property between 1768 and 1953, and it represents the tax parcel boundary as it would have been in 1919. Although the 1970s columbarium and gazebo would be considered non-contributing, they are nevertheless within the recommended boundary. The boundary excludes the 21 acres the church purchased in 1957, which is after the period of significance for St. Anne's Church.

Old St. Annes Church

Name of Property

New Castle County, DE

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12.37 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	8	4	3	8	6	8	5	4	3	6	5	3	5	1
Zone	Easting			Northing											

2	1	8	4	3	8	5	9	4	4	3	6	5	5	4	2
Zone	Easting			Northing											

3	1	8	4	3	8	4	2	0	4	3	6	5	5	2	9
Zone	Easting			Northing											

4	1	8	4	3	8	5	0	7	4	3	6	5	2	0	9
Zone	Easting			Northing											

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry A. Clouse, Historic Structures Group Coordinator

organization McCormick Taylor, Inc.

date July 16, 2007

street & number 75 Shannon Road

telephone 717-540-6040

city or town Harrisburg

state PA

zip code 17112

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name St. Annes Episcopal Church

street & number 105 St. Annes Church Road

telephone

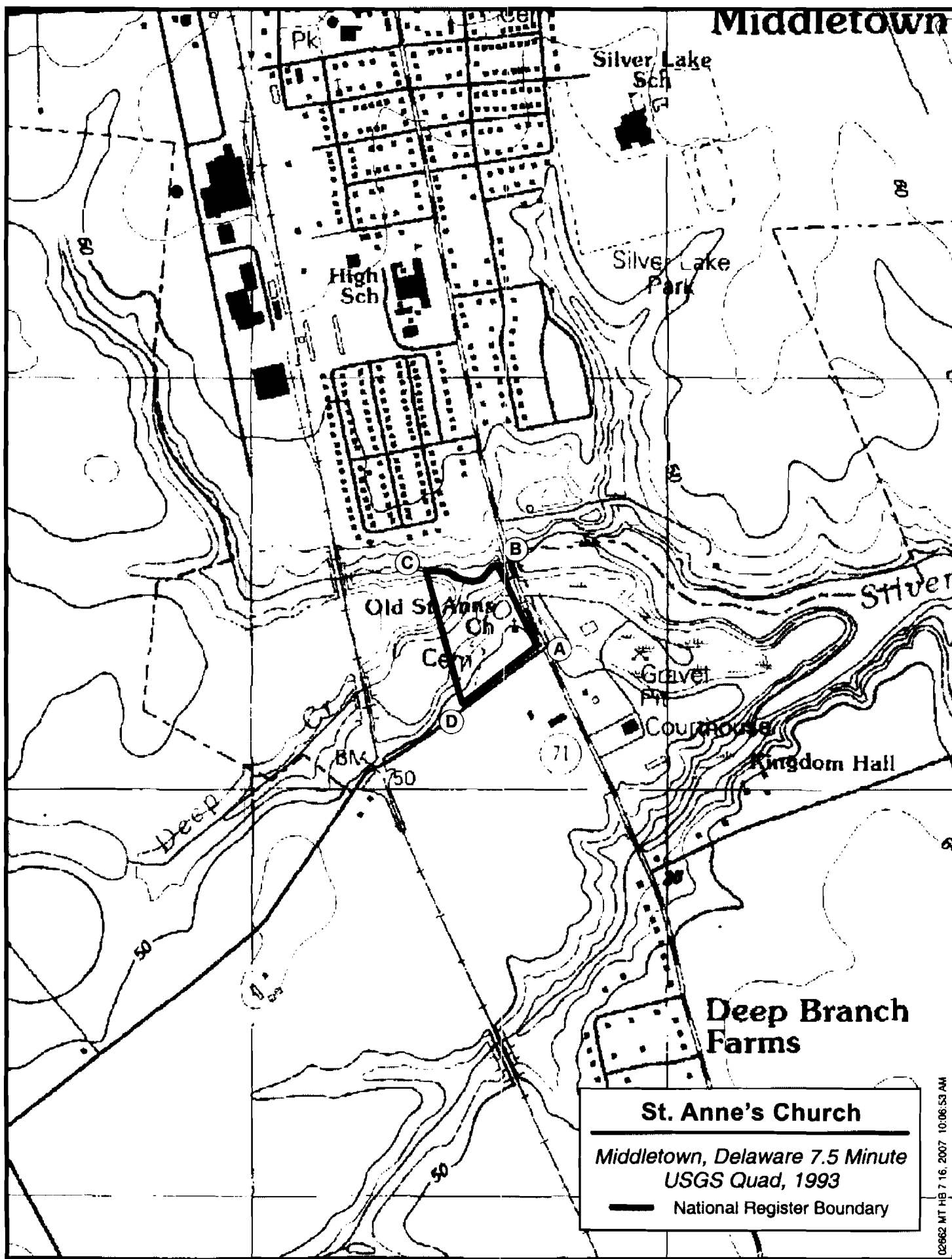
city or town Middletown

state DE

zip code 19709

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



St. Anne's Church

Middletown, Delaware 7.5 Minute
USGS Quad, 1993

— National Register Boundary

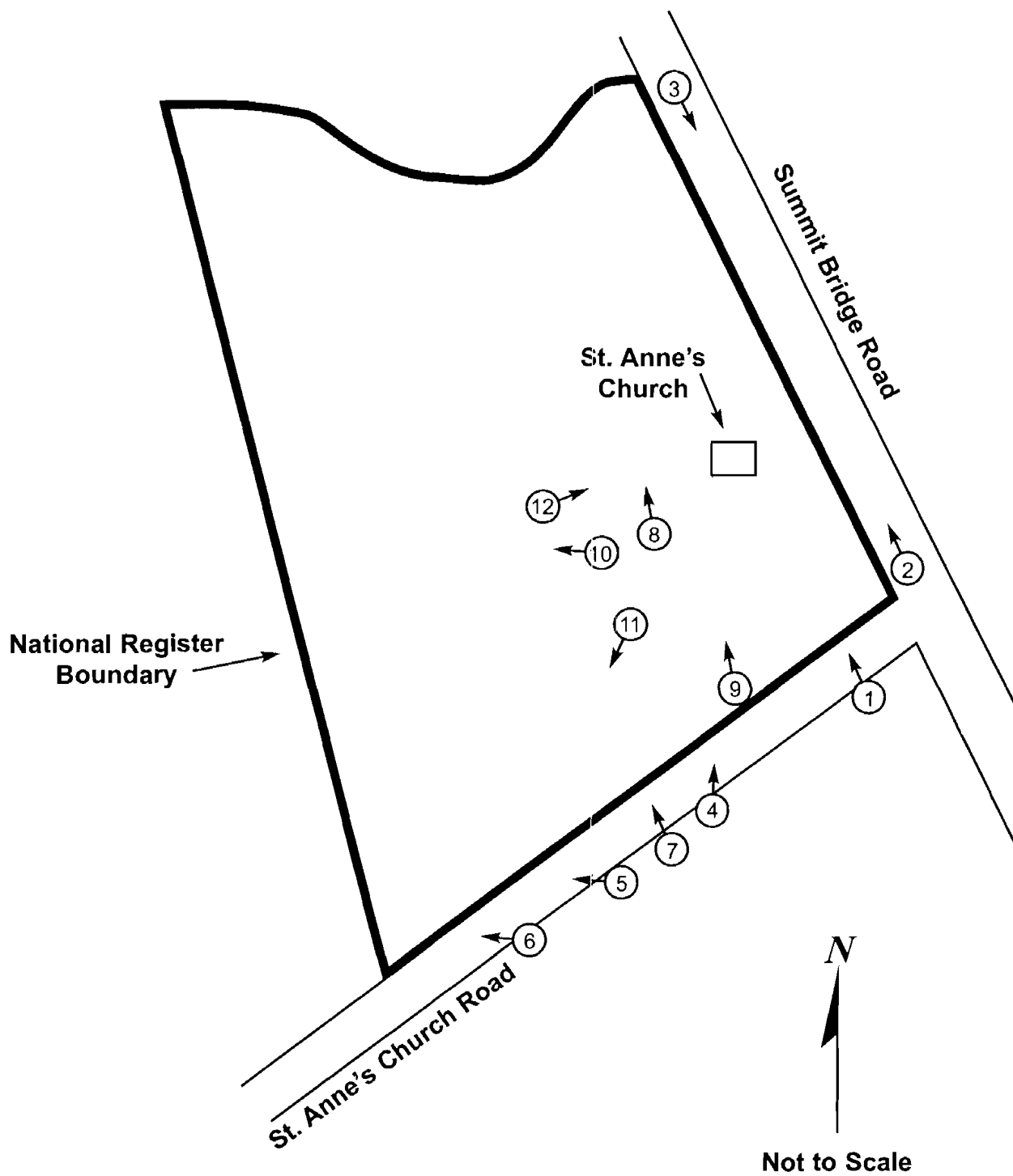


Photo Location Map

St. Anne's Church
New Castle County, Delaware

① → Photo View

— National Register Boundary

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Photographs

Photographer: Joanne Keim
McCormick Taylor, Inc.
75 Shannon Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Date of Photographs: May 2007

Photo Views:

1. View looking northwest at the first gated entrance along St. Anne's Church road. Note Old St. Anne's Church in the background.
2. View looking northwest along the eastern side of the brick wall facing Summit Bridge Road.
3. View looking southeast along the eastern side of the brick wall facing Summit Bridge Road. Note how the wall is stepped to correspond with the slope of the land.
4. View looking northeast along the southern wall which faces St. Anne's Church Road.
5. View looking west toward the bridge over Norfolk southern along the southern wall facing onto St. Anne's Church Road.
6. View looking west over the brick wall at the westernmost gate of the southern wall.
7. View looking northwest at the gate to the "Bishop's Walk."
8. View looking north toward the 1970s brick columbarium and frame gazebo.
9. View looking north along the "trace of the King's Highway."
10. View looking west from the "trace of the King's Highway" toward the "Bishop's Walk."
11. View looking southwest from the "trace of the King's Highway" toward the interior of the southern wall.
12. View looking northeast along gravel road which travels along the western edge of the cemetery.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12